

***Zeuxine affinis* (Lindl.) Benth. ex Hook.f. (Orchidaceae) - a new record for Peninsular India**

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Abstract

Zeuxine affinis (Lindl.) Benth. ex Hook.f. (Orchidaceae) is reported for the first time from Peninsular India and described with illustrations.

INTRODUCTION

Our recent studies on the flora of the Senduruny Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala yielded many interesting plant records. *Zeuxine affinis* (Lindl.) Benth. ex Hook.f., from the Shenduruny Wildlife Sanctuary is reported here as a new record for Peninsular India. Brief illustrative account of the species is given for easy identification.

***Zeuxine affinis* (Lindl.) Benth. ex Hook.f.**, Fl. Brit. India 6 : 108. 1890 & Ic. Pl. t. 2177. 1894; Seidenf., Dansk Bot. Ark. 32 : 88. 1978 (Fig. 1).

Etaeria affinis Lindl., Wall. Cat. No. 7383. 1832, *nom. nud.*

Monochilus affinis Lindl., Gen. Sp. Orch. 487. 1840. pp.

Terrestrial herbs, 20-30 cm tall. Leaves 3-4 x 1-1.5 cm, ovate or elliptic acute, sheathing at base. Peduncle 15-25 cm long, pubescent. Bracts 6 x 1.5 mm, ovate acuminate, pubescent. Flowers white, 2 x 1 cm; sepals pubescent without; dorsal sepal 6 x 5 mm, ovate, obtuse; lateral sepals 6 x 5 mm, elliptic, obtuse; petals 6-6.5 x 2.5 mm, falcately oblong-obtuse, connate with dorsal sepal; lip 11 x 10 mm, saccate at base with two cylindrical acute glands; epichile 2-lobulate; lobules each 7 x 3.5-4 mm, obovate or obconical, truncate, wavy along margins; column 5 x 2.5 mm; stigmatic lobes two fleshy protuberances, marginal; rostellum 1 x 0.3 mm, oblanceolate-oblong, slightly curved. Ovary with pedicel 1.5 cm long.

Flowering : January - February.

Occurrence : Very rare in evergreen forests.

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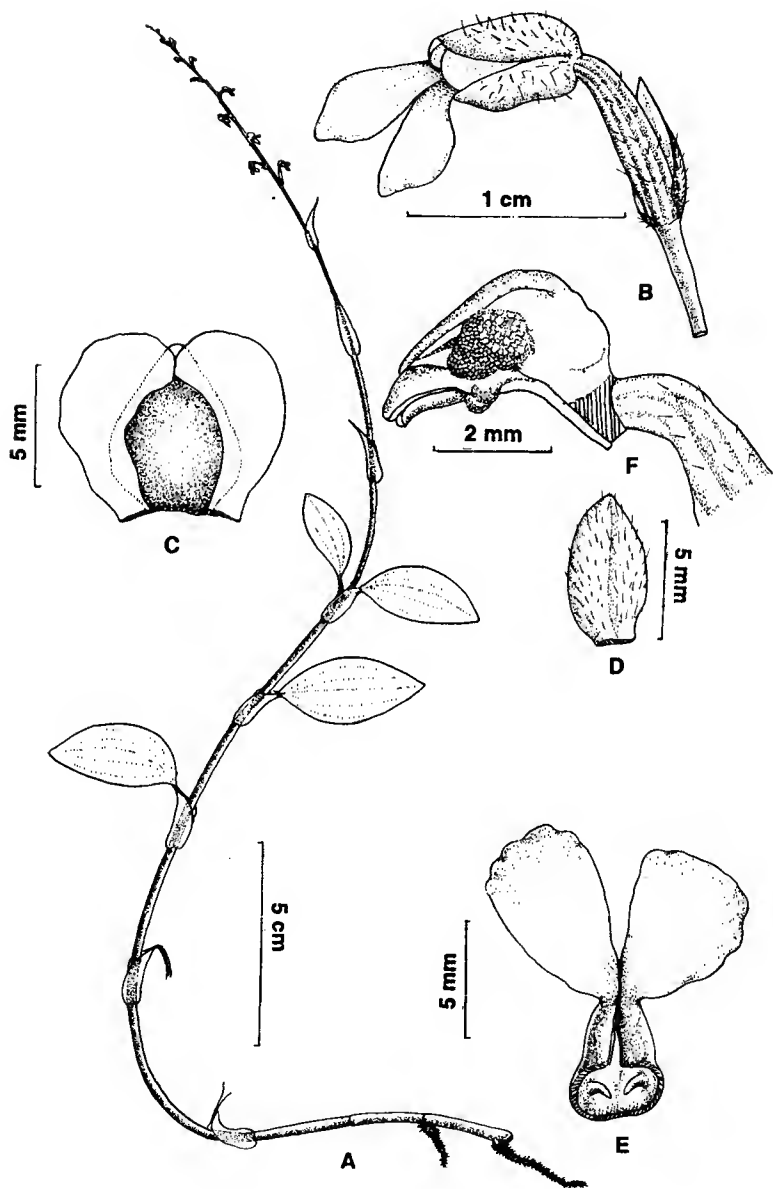


Fig 1. *Zeuxine affinis* (Lindl.) Benth. ex Hook.f. (A-F) : A. Habit; B. Flower; C. Dorsal sepal and petals; D. Lateral sepal; E. lip, F. Column.

Zeuxine affinis

Specimens examined : Shenduruny Wildlife Sanctuary, Quilon district, Kerala, \pm 1400 m, 19.02.1995, N. Sasidharan 11439 (KFRI)

Note : This species is reported from India (Sikkim, Meghalaya), Bhutan, Burma, Bangladesh, Thailand, Laos and Peninsular Malaysia (Seidenfaden, 1978, Seidenfaden & Wood, 1992). It differs from *Z. longilabris* (Lindl.) Benth. ex Hook.f., having obovate or obconical lobules of lip with wavy margins. Our specimens have larger lip compared to Seidenfaden (1978).

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